

Claims

1. Communication network comprising a source and a switch for receiving and forwarding data packets originating from the source, wherein the network comprises:

5 at least two mutually different routing paths between the source and the switch, wherein the switch comprises at least two incoming ports for receiving the data packets originating from the source,

the switch operable to discard for a period of time any data packet originating from the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports upon receiving a data packet originating from the source at the second one of the at least two incoming ports after receiving a data packet originating from
10 the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports.

2. Communication network according to claim 1, characterised in that, the switch is further arranged to discard for a period of time any data packet originating from the source at all the at least two incoming ports apart from at
15 the second one, upon receiving a data packet originating from the source at the second one of the at least two incoming ports after receiving a data packet originating from the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports.

3. Communication network according to claim 1, characterised in that, the period of time lasts till the switch is informed that re-ordering of the data packets originating from the source is no longer possible.
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4. Communication network according to claim 1, characterised in that, the period of time has a predetermined length of time.

5. Communication network according to claim 1, characterised in that the communication network is used by an Ethernet Network.

25 6. Switch for use in a communication network which includes a source and, when the switch is in use, at least two mutually different routing paths between the source and the switch, wherein the switch is arranged to receive

and forward data packets originating from the source, wherein the switch comprises:

at least two incoming ports for receiving the data packets originating from the source,

5 the switch operable to discard for a period of time any data packet originating from the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports upon receiving a data packet originating from the source at the second one of the at least two incoming ports after receiving a data packet originating from the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports.

10 7. Switch according to claim 6, characterised in that, the switch is further arranged to discard for a period of time any data packet originating from the source at all the at least two incoming ports apart from at the second one, upon receiving a data packet originating from the source at the second one of the at least two incoming ports after receiving a data packet originating
15 from the source at the first one of the at least two incoming ports.

8. Switch according to claim 6, characterised in that, the period of time lasts till the switch is informed that re-ordering of the data packets originating from the source is no longer possible.

20 9. Switch according to claim 6, characterised in that, the period of time has a predetermined length of time.

10. Switch according to claim 6, characterised in that the communication network is used by an Ethernet Network.